

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303

INFO AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY LOME

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6166

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, XY

SUBJECT: ELEVEN-COUNTRY AIR AFRIQUE SUMMIT OPENS IN ABIDJAN

1. REPRESENTATIVES OF ELEVEN MEMBER STATES OF AIR AFRIQUE
ARRIVE IN ABIDJAN OVER WEEKEND TO PARTICIPATE IN SUMMIT
CONFERENCE ON AIRLINE WHICH OPENED JULY 21. FOLLOWING IS
LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES:

A) IVORY COAST (HOST) - PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY

B) SENEGAL - PRESIDENT LEOPOLD SENGHOR

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C/MAURITANIA - PRESIDENT MOCKTAR OULD DADDAH

- D) UPPER VOLTA - PRESIDENT SANGOULE LAMIZANA
- E) GABON - PRESIDENT OMAR BONGO
- F) NIGER - VICE PRESIDENT SANI SIDDO
- G) REP. OF CONGO - PRIME MINISTER HENRI LOPES
- H) TOGO - MINISTER PLAN, COMMERCE AND
TRANSPORTATION DOGO KOUDJOLOU
- I) DAHOMEY - MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS MICHEL ALLADAYE
- J) CHAD - MEMBER SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL
WEGUE EJOGO
- K) CENTRAL AFRICAN - MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS JOSEPH POTOLO
REPUBLIC

2. THE ANNOUNCED PURPOSE OF THE SUMMIT, WHICH IS THE FIRST SINCE THE LAST SUCH MEETING IN ABIDJAN FOUR YEARS AGO, IS TO TAKE STOCK OF THE AIRLINE'S PROGRESS AND DECIDE ON FUTURE DIRECTIONS. IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENT, THE GOIC-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER FRATERNITE-MATIN ALSO REFERRED TO "DELICATE PROBLEMS" WHICH HAVE TO BE FACED SUCH AS NON-PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS BY SOME MEMBER STATES AND AFRICANIZATION OF THE AIRLINE. THERE IS ALSO THE PERSISTENT RUMOR THAT SOME STATES E.G. GABON WILL PULL OUT OF AIR AFRIQUE TO FORM NATIONAL CARRIER AS DID CAMEROUN IN 1971. GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO ON ARRIVAL INTERVIEW AT ABIDJAN AIRPORT, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT GABON INTENDED TO STAY IN AIR AFRIQUE AND INCREASE ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE AIRLINE.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH FIVE CHIEFS OF STATE ARE REPRESENTED AT THE ABIDJAN SUMMIT, THE NUMBER IS LESS THAN HOPED FOR BY THE GOIC. FRATERNITE MATIN LAST WEEK INDICATED THAT NIGER PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE AND C.A.R. PRESIDENT BOKASSA WERE ALSO EXPECTED TO ATTEND. NONETHELESS THE HIGH-LEVEL SUMMIT WILL PRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE 11 FRANCOPHONE

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LEADERS, IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING AIR AFRIQUE, TO CONSULT INFORMALLY ON A VARIETY OF COMMON INTERESTS AND PROBLEMS.

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